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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County launches Faith Build initiative to engage religious community

ORLANDO, Fla. (May 6, 2026) — [Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County](#) launched the nonprofit's new Faith Build initiative, which engages religious organizations of all faiths to help address Central Florida's housing crisis.

Faith Build brings people together through a shared purpose, combining faith, service, and community commitment to make a meaningful impact through stable, affordable housing.

"Faith Build is a powerful way for us to come together in service and community," said Catherine Steck McManus, president and CEO of Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County. "It reflects the heart of who we are and invites people of all beliefs to be part of creating lasting change in our housing system."

Habitat Orlando & Osceola is proud to launch the initiative alongside First Presbyterian Church of Orlando. A member of the church, Walter Pharr, played a role in helping to establish Habitat Orlando & Osceola 40 years ago, and today, the church's Senior Pastor, Dr. David Swanson, continues that connection through his service on Habitat Orlando & Osceola's Board of Directors. Both organizations are marking meaningful milestones this year – 150 years for First Pres and 40 years for Habitat Orlando & Osceola – making this partnership a special moment to reflect on their shared commitment to serving Central Florida.

"We're honored to work alongside Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County to expand access to affordable housing in our community," said Dr. David Swanson, senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Orlando and a Habitat Orlando & Osceola board member. "Our organizations' milestones reflect a long obedience in the same direction. Meaningful progress and lasting trust are built only through sustained, consistent service within a single community. This build is one more powerful sign of that commitment."

Twenty members of the church congregation joined Habitat Orlando & Osceola on the build site to install siding to kick off the initiative on Wednesday. They were also joined by Habitat homeowner and local pastor Richard, who shared his testimony on the impact of the work being done.

Habitat Orlando & Osceola is currently building stable, affordable homes in Orange County's Holden Heights neighborhood. Faith organizations looking to get involved in supporting the nonprofit's mission can learn more [here](#). Anyone interested in purchasing a Habitat home can learn more [here](#).

High-res photos of Wednesday's event are available [here](#). Cutline information provided below:

- Faith Build - First Presbyterian 05.06.26-005: Dr. David Swanson, senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Orlando and a Habitat Orlando & Osceola board member, volunteers during the inaugural Faith Build.
- Faith Build - First Presbyterian 05.06.26-003: Habitat Orlando & Osceola homeowner Richard speaks during the inaugural Faith Build ceremony.
- Faith Build - First Presbyterian 05.06.26-004: Catherine Steck McManus, president and CEO of Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County, speaks during the inaugural Faith Build ceremony.
- Faith Build - First Presbyterian 05.06.26-001, 006-008: Volunteers from First Presbyterian Church of Orlando come together to volunteer during Habitat Orlando & Osceola's inaugural Faith Build.
- Faith Build - First Presbyterian 05.06.26-002: Dr. David Swanson, senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Orlando and a Habitat Orlando & Osceola board member, speaks during the inaugural Faith Build ceremony.

About Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County

Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County is driven by a vision where everyone has an affordable place to call home, a stable foundation that fosters health, opportunity, and progress for all. Habitat Orlando & Osceola pioneers innovative housing solutions, empowers individuals through knowledge, and transforms communities by addressing the root causes of the housing crisis. Founded in 1986, Habitat Orlando & Osceola has built, rehabbed or repaired over 900 homes throughout Central Florida. Through home builds, repairs, housing counseling, financial education classes, and other programming, Habitat Orlando & Osceola serves more than 2,000 people each year. The nonprofit has achieved recognition as one of the 40 "top producers" out of over 900 Habitat for Humanity International affiliates working in communities throughout the United States and in more than 60 countries. To learn more, visit

HabitatOrlando.org.

About First Presbyterian Church of Orlando

First Presbyterian Church of Orlando is a vibrant downtown community rooted in the heart of the City Beautiful. For 150 years, First Pres has served as the heartbeat of Orlando, seeking the flourishing of its neighborhoods, workplaces, and families. The rhythm of their mission guides every action: Be Loved / Love the City. Know Truth / Live Truth. Like breathing in and out, they gather to belong—in God's presence and with His people—and then go out to love, serve, and encourage everyone in the places where they live, work, and play. Grounded in the Biblical

Truth, the people of First Pres are continually being formed into Christ's likeness, finding their identity in Him, and living lives of Truth & Love—all for God's glory and the good of the city.